

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 AID-05 SAJ-01

OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00 /067 W

----- 041828

O 011710Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3624

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, PO

SUBJ: TORRINGTON DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 4264

1. EFFORTS DURING WEEK OF JULY 28-AUG. 1 TO RESOLVE TORRINGTON DISPUTE HAVE APPARENTLY FAILED.

2. LABOR AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHES MET WITH LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS AMARAL AND ROSA ON JULY 29 AND AGREED TO ARRANGE INFORMAL MEETING ON JULY 31 BETWEEN THEM AND TORRINGTON MANAGEMENT (SHANNON) AT NEUTRAL LOCATION SHANNON AGREED BUT ROSA CANCELLED INFORMAL MEETING AT LAST MOMENT IN FAVOR OF MEETING AT MINISTRY UNDER CONDITIONS TO WHICH SHANNON WOULD NOT AGREE. BETWEEN TIME OF AGREEMENT TO ARRANGE MEETING AND TIME OF SCHEDULED MEETING, ROSA'S OFFICE CALLED IN SHANNON AND NOTIFIED HIM THAT LABOR MINISTRY HAD IMPOSED A SETTLEMENT. IN ESSENCE SETTLEMENT WAS THAT PROPOSED BY MINISTRY ON JULY 4 AND REFUSED BY ASHMEAD. UNDER ITS GONE. (DETAILS OF MEETING PROVIDED BY SHANNON-EMBASSY ATTEMPTING CONFIRM THEM.)

3. INFORMAL MEETINGS ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN SHANNON AND
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WORKERS COMMISSION. SHANNON SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY SOME WORKER

ATTEMPTS TO MODERATE OPINIONS OF THE MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.

4. INTENSIFIED EFFORTS BY MINISTRY TO RESOLVE DISPUTE PROBABLY RESULT OF SALAR PRESSURES. WITH NO APPARENT RESOLUTION, GOP HAS SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES:

A) ARREST SHANNON AND ACCUSE HIM OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE IN ORDER TO PRESSURE TORRINGTON INTO PAYING.

B) INTERVEN IN TORRINGTON UNDER DECREE LAW 660 AND REPLACE MANAGEMENT WITH GOP ADMINISTRATORS.

C) NATIONALIZE FIRM, WITH OR WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

D) PAY THE SALARIES AND CONTINUE SEEKING A SETTLEMENT.

EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ALTERNATIVE D IS ONE MOST LIKELY TO BE SELECTED.

FERRER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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